



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

May 3,
1947
No 1467

EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

The Wonders of White Island

A CHRISTMAS CAKE IN THE PACIFIC

IN the Bay of Plenty, off the shores of North Island, New Zealand, lies White Island—lonely, shunned, deserted. Yet this island, an active volcano, has large deposits of sulphur, gypsum, and guano, and it has recently claimed the attentions of a scientific expedition.

White Island rises to a height of just over 800 feet and the crater area occupies about a third of the total acreage. In this area are numerous continuous blowholes or fumeroles, set in a scene of remarkable grandeur. There are few places in the world where actual thermal activity may be so closely approached and observed if normal precautions are taken.

A Six-Day Stay

Recently a group of observers from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of New Zealand visited the island, and during a six-day stay collected much valuable information in connection with science, industry, and research into the life of the birds which inhabit the pohutukawa trees on the fringes of the island.

From a few miles away White Island appeared not so much white as like a highly-decorated Christmas cake, said Mr C. A. Fleming, the geologist of the party. Parts of it were encrusted with a pinkish rock, and a heavily-mineralised stream sent a snake-like trail of sulphur-tinted water out to sea. At close quarters the island was a blaze of yellow sulphur combined with the red of haematite and the white of gypsum; the only natural green was the far fringe of pohutukawa forest.

Ashore were places where it was necessary to tread soberly and warily. Schubert's Fairy, a fumerole so named many years ago when an attempt was made to mine the sulphur of the island, was still a magnificent sight. The sulphurous gas escaped at such heat and pressure that it was invisible for many feet, but when it condensed, the Fairy appeared in dancing bluish sulphur flame, while far above her soared the steam cloud.

Big and Little Donald

Describing some of the changes since the last visit to the island, Mr Fleming said that Little Donald, another of the blowholes formerly mapped, had now become quiet. Big Donald, however, was again the centre of a boiling green lake. This was not nearly so large as the lake which formerly occupied much of the crater, but it was extremely acid. After a strong fishing line had been in it for a few minutes the threads could be pulled apart. When an attempt was made to examine one fumerole a thermometer reading up to 350 degrees centigrade buckled and broke. The remains of the sulphur mill

of some 20 years ago showed strong evidence of the corrosive atmosphere; everything of steel and iron had been heavily corroded and the concrete was buckled from the expansion of its reinforcements. The volcanic rock on White Island contains iron oxide which the ferric acid present is continually corroding, and scientists believe that the island is gradually breaking down and will slowly be eroded down to sea level by the forces operating within itself.

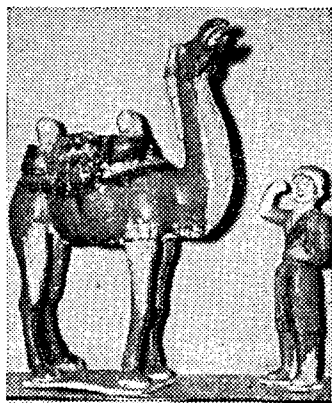
The southern part of the island, where the long belt of pohutukawa trees grows, is the nesting-place of thousands of mutton birds. Also, near the trees on the cliffs, are nests of the gannets, which are there in thousands. There is no fresh water on White Island, but with the advent of water tanks for the use of the one-time sulphur workers, song-birds made their appearance there and still exist in spite of the heat and fumes.

THE MOTHERLAND'S DAIRY

NEW ZEALAND dairy farmers are proud of the fact that year by year they are able to supply more butter and cheese for Britain's meal tables than any other country in the world.

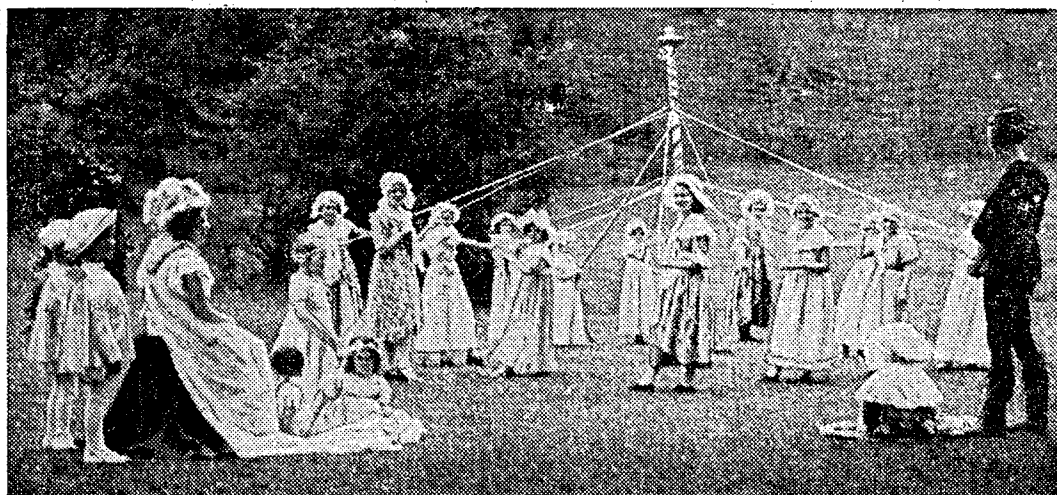
Nearly three-and-a-half million tons of butter and cheese were exported from New Zealand during the past 16 years, and nearly all of it went to Britain. This is equal to about two tons of butter and cheese for each man, woman, and child in the Dominion, which has a population of one-and-three-quarter million people!

Chinese Camel



For a thousand years this porcelain camel has been throwing back his head and laughing as only a camel can laugh, while all that time the attendant has expressed his annoyance. These quaint little Chinese pottery figures are in a London exhibition of Oriental ceramics.

WHEN APRIL STEPS ASIDE FOR MAY



May, queen of blossoms,
And fulfilling flowers,
With what pretty music
Shall we charm the hours?

Wilt thou have pipe and reed,
Blown in the open mead?
Or to the lute give heed
In the green bowers? Lord Thurlow

MAPPING THE BARREN LANDS

In a Wilderness of Snow and Ice

A PARTY of 12 Canadian Royal Engineers, two trappers, and their devoted dog comrades, have been adventuring into a desolate wilderness covered by such a tangle of lakes and bogs that it can only be traversed while the land is still in the grip of winter frost. This forbidding region is in the vicinity of Churchill, which is on the western shores of Hudson Bay in Manitoba.

These explorers are making detailed maps of this desolate territory, which is appropriately called the Barren Lands; for maps made from air photographs sometimes miss details which are important in producing good maps. They were equipped with three snow-mobiles, two sleighs, and a dog team. Fuel for the snow-mobiles and food had to be dropped to them by parachutes from aircraft.

Wireless Aid For the Sleepy

A NEW type of radio set which has been developed will act as a kind of alarm clock to awaken sleepy people in the morning.

This new set incorporates an electrically-operated alarm clock which can be pre-set to switch on the receiver at a desired time. Setting the alarm to 7 a.m., for instance, and tuning the set to the BBC Home Service, means being aroused by the voice of the announcer giving the morning news.

The device can also be used to make sure that you do not miss a favourite programme. By pre-setting the clock the radio will switch itself on at the required time.

Letting the Plane Down Slowly

SOMETHING new in airscrews has been undergoing tests on the ground and will soon be tested on Halifax bombers lent by the Air Ministry. It is a telescopic airscrew.

One model tried recently is about three feet long, and as it rotates it extends in about two seconds to 18 feet. Another, a foot longer, extends to 30 feet. In tests made near Chelmsford recently each airscrew was mounted horizontally on a tubular structure built on a motor van. While the van was travelling at 30 m.p.h. the airscrew was released from its fixed position and allowed to rotate in the manner of an Autogiro's vanes. As it did so the airscrew extended to its maximum, and so great was the lift exerted by the bigger model that the car had to be stopped because it was in danger of being lifted from the ground.

The new device is the inven-

tion of an Italian, Signor Vittorio Isacco, who believes that it can be used to assist the take-off, and considerably reduce the landing-speed, of aeroplanes, thus enabling big machines to operate from much smaller fields.

The telescopic airscrew can also be adapted for use as a parachute—not only for the in-



Vittorio Isacco with his telescopic airscrew

dividual, but for a complete aircraft cabin, which would be automatically detached from the machine in an emergency. As the screw began to rotate it would extend and allow the cabin to drop slowly to earth.

CURRANTS TO BURN

AFTER a melancholy absence from our cakes and cupboards, currants have returned recently to the grocers' shops. The bulk of them come from Greece, where they are grown as little seedless grapes.

The vines, no matter how careful the cultivation, are difficult to grow to perfection unless soil, climate, and local conditions accord with requirements, so that it is impossible to ensure crops of anything like equal merit from all the areas in which the currants grow. To the rest of

the world it might perhaps seem that Greece could never have too much ground under her currant crops, yet some years ago the Greeks had to destroy thousands of their currant-bearing vines.

The Government declared that the supply had become too great for profitable commerce, and so nearly 10,000 acres of currant plantations were compulsorily uprooted.

When next we eat buns without as many currants as we should like we may gloomily recall the picture of those official fires.

A NEW TASK FOR AMERICA

THE people of the United States have recently coined a new phrase—the Truman Doctrine. This is the most significant statement of American foreign policy since the famous Monroe Doctrine, which from 1823 governed the attitude of the New World to the Old. Moreover, this new Doctrine will assuredly influence the future policy of Britain and the Dominions.

The meaning of the Truman Doctrine has been vividly brought home to us by the very outspoken comments on it by Mr Henry Wallace who, but for a turn in the wheel of domestic party politics, would have succeeded his intimate friend, Mr Roosevelt, as President of the U.S.

Mr Wallace represented the liberal and New Deal branch of the Democratic Party in America, and Mr Truman, elected in his stead as Vice-President, belongs to the more conservative branch of that Party.

Now, in both his domestic and foreign policies Mr Truman, as President, has been supported not only by the mainly conservative part of the Democratic Party, but also by the Republican Party which now forms the majority of both Houses of Congress; and although, indeed, certain circles in America disagree with Mr Truman's policy, there is little doubt that substantial sections in U.S. support it.

What is the President's policy? What are America's desires in international relations? In his speech to Congress last month Mr Truman made this clear. He announced that a sum of £100,000,000 would be granted to Greece and Turkey to prop up their economies and their weak armed forces.

Greece and Turkey

It was the circumstances of the grant that made the step a sensational turning point in America's policy towards the Old World.

In Greece the Government has been unable to cope with armed opposition composed mainly of Communists. This opposition, it is alleged, is sustained by Greece's unfriendly neighbours, Albania, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria, all three influenced by the Soviet Union.

In Turkey, Russia's request to share in the defence of the Dardanelles and unofficial claims to parts of North-Eastern Turkey, have made that country apprehensive. Turkey has consequently spent much money on her numerous but poorly-armed forces, with the result that her economic life has become well-nigh crippled. Many experts

fear that both Greece and Turkey might succumb to these forms of internal or external pressure, and would thus be drawn within Russia's influence. Her grant in aid will, the U.S. hopes, prevent this happening.

The U.S. may thus become involved in a political clash with the Soviet Union in an area which is of very great importance to Britain and her Empire. Indeed, the immediate reason why the President acted was a note from Britain stating this country's inability to render further help to Greece after March 31.

The Truman Doctrine

But this is not all. President Truman has made a clear statement of U.S. foreign policy—the Truman Doctrine, which runs: "One of the primary objectives of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which we and other nations will be able to work out a way of life free from coercion. . . . We shall not realise our objectives, however, unless we are willing to help free peoples to maintain their free institutions and their national integrity against aggressive movements that seek to impose on them totalitarian regimes. . . . Great responsibilities have been placed upon us."

This new doctrine, therefore, is very different from the Monroe Doctrine which warned other nations against colonising any part of the American continent, but was confined to the New World.

The Truman Doctrine has, of course, evoked intense discussion both inside and outside America. Mr Henry Wallace has expressed a strong view. While he did not object to the aid programme as such, he feared it might lead to a clash. Britain, as the Power standing between Russia and the U.S. should, he said, use its influence to avert a head-on collision between those two great Powers.

However, it is unthinkable that such a clash is inevitable. A policy of peace is as vital for the U.S. and the USSR as for the rest of the world.

Finding the Parsons of Tomorrow

THE Church of England is taking very seriously the highly important business of finding the parish clergymen of tomorrow. At the end of the war about five thousand names were on the church's central register of men in the armed forces who had expressed a wish to become candidates for the ministry. Over a hundred of these men had been killed in the war, and a thousand of them eventually withdrew their names.

To sort out the remaining thousands the church has evolved a highly efficient method of selection. A number of selection centres have been started in various parts of the country to which the prospective parsons are invited for a few days. There

they are entertained as in a "house party," and a group of five selectors' mix among the men in a friendly way. While there each man is interviewed separately by the five selectors, who represent all phases of the church's life and activity. Then they compare notes about the man's suitability. If a man is selected he then passes to one of the theological colleges for training. So far 1870 men have passed the selection boards and 467 men have been rejected.

This method places a heavy responsibility on those in charge of the scheme, but it does ensure, as far as human ingenuity can, that parsons-to-be will be well tested and trained for their high calling.

Teaching the Humanities

THAT eminent scholar Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls, suggested to the Classical Association the other day that each secondary school might have a Humanities master to teach the value of the humanities in the widest sense, and to implant in the minds of his pupils those qualities which the humanities can give.

The humanities may be briefly described as human life and thought, not only now but throughout the ages, but in these difficult times, when so much material aid must be given to mankind within the shortest possible time, there is a tendency to overlook old philosophies which have been tested by time.

Lord Greene said that the lessons of the classics provided an indispensable basis for teaching the humanities, and that science should be a principal ally.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH TO THE EMPIRE

I DECLARE before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong; but I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given.

God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

From her 21st birthday broadcast

Well Done, Southwark

It is still essential in the national interest to save waste paper, for it is an important raw material in many industries. Southwark schoolboys and girls, among others, are patriotically aware of this, and during the past two years, since April 1945, they have collected no less than 63 tons of waste paper.

The 21 schools of London's ancient Borough have competed for a silver challenge cup awarded every three months to the school which has made the biggest collection per head of waste paper. The young collectors have also been shown round waste-paper salvage depots and the paper mills where the saved paper is turned into new paper and cardboard.

New Lease of Life

THERE is nothing remarkable in a ship sailing from the Mersey with a general cargo. But the 5445-ton Elder Dempster motor-ship Sangara, which sailed the other day for West Africa, was an exception; for not so long ago she was lying at the bottom of the sea, near Accra, West Africa, written off as a total loss.

Two West African engineers bought the wreck, however, managed to refloat her and tow her to Lagos. There she stayed until the end of the war when Elder Dempster Lines rebought her and fitted her up. Now once more she has sailed with her old captain in command.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ROUND THE WORLD. Mr Milton Reynolds, a 54-year-old Chicago business man, flying in a converted bomber, flew round the world in 78 hours and 55 minutes. He travelled some 20,000 miles at an average flying speed of 318 miles an hour and beat the old record by nearly thirteen hours.

When Germany's first parliamentary elections for 15 years were held recently, in the three States of the British Zone, only 65 per cent of the electors voted.

The Liberté, formerly the German liner *Europa*, which foundered in Havre last December, has been refloated.

MIND THE PEEL. Two thousand cases of oranges and lemons have been received by the Lord Mayor as a gift to the children of London from the Greek Government.

A gift of six white swans is to be sent to Zwolle, in Holland, by the people of Colchester, who have "adopted" the town.

The latest census in Australia reveals a population of 7,466,000. About half this number live in six State capitals.

A proposal to send a delegation to Washington to ascertain on what terms Newfoundland might join the United States was rejected by the National Convention by an overwhelming majority.

When the first airliner of Trans-Canada Airlines' new London-Montreal service landed in London it carried hundreds of boxes of sweets, gifts for patients in children's hospitals.

UNO IN UNISON. At the International Musical Eisteddfod at Llangollen next June, thirty-nine choirs from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Britain, Hungary, Italy, Holland, Portugal, Switzerland, and Sweden will compete.

Guernsey is to have a State-controlled theatre and arts centre.

Wood worth £133,000, enough for 6350 houses, has been shipped to Britain from the British Zone of Germany since November.

The new Prime Minister of Finland, Mr Tuomioja, is 35.

The Ministry of Food has decided to postpone indefinitely the purchase of 10,000 tons of turkeys from the United States.

HOME NEWS REEL

LUCKY DIP. Children found a tin containing £80 in half-crowns and shillings at St Saviour, Jersey.

Lighting-up time from now until October 4 will be from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

A power station is being constructed at Holes Bay, in Poole Harbour, at a cost of £7,000,000.

SWEET NEWS. The 1946-47 sugar beet crop of 11 tons per acre was a record, exceeding the previous highest crop by more than half-a-ton per acre. The yield of sugar, slightly lower than usual, has been estimated at 570,000 tons.

Bookings made by people visiting Britain for the first time this year already number more than 150,000.

The Auctioneer's Institute has bought Headley Court, near Leatherhead in Surrey, and has provided £133,000 for its conversion to a permanent rehabilitation centre for flying men.

AS BEFORE. At a public meeting in Coventry a resolution was passed that the Cathedral should be rebuilt on its present site and in its old form.

One of the oldest theatres in the country, Theatre Royal, Leicester, is to be sold by auction.

Over 2000 volunteers have responded to an appeal for part-time work in Greater London hospitals.

Instruments for testing air pollution have been set up on the tower of Big Ben.

CUPID'S RETURN. The statue of Eros, taken away during the war, is to be returned to Piccadilly Circus before the end of June.

At the end of March the Royal Observer Corps had enrolled 8700 men and 1300 women.

A majority vote of one lifted the banning of swings on Sunday in recreation fields at Callington in Cornwall.

A Leeds business man has made a gift to the schools of the city to provide miniature cars for safety-first lessons.

To supplement the usual allowance for spring feeding, the Minister of Food has arranged for extra sugar to be made available to bee-keepers.

COMMANDOS. The morning services at four London prisons were recently taken by teams from the Christian Commando campaign.

The Prunier Trophy for the biggest single catch in East Anglian fisheries was recently awarded to the Yarmouth drifter, *Romany Rose*, for a haul of 246,000 herrings in one night.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

ODD-JOB SCOUTS. By doing odd jobs such as shopping, scrubbing and polishing floors, gardening, and minding the baby, Surbiton Scouts hope to raise just over £200 to send 12 Scouts to the World Jamboree in France this August. In the first week they booked 300 jobs, and receipts were £53.

Ten travelling bakehouses will supply bread for the 30,000 Scouts from over 40 countries at the World Jamboree. The potatoes needed represent a field of over five square miles, and the fruit an orchard of 3500 acres.

The Medal of Merit has been awarded to the Boy Scouts of Windsor, Ontario, for their splendid service after the devastating tornado last June.

B B BROADCAST. Just after four on Saturday afternoon there is to be a 15-minute broadcast from the Annual Display of the Boys Brigade at the Albert Hall in London. The Display is also being given on the evenings of Friday and Saturday of this week.

Two big parties of Boys' Brigade members are to visit Denmark this summer as guests of the F.D.F., the Danish B.B.

Guide Companies and Brownie Packs for British children have been started in the British Zone in Germany. To prepare for the time when Guiding for German girls will be permitted, 30 British Guiders recently attended a special training course at Berhill.

The Children's Newspaper, May 3, 1947

Where Pocket-Money Comes From

THE Royal Mint was busy last year. The total value of the shining new coins that poured from it was £8,736,871, which was higher than for several years.

Fewer bronze coins were struck last year than in 1945, but the humble farthing flourished, 24,364,800 leaving the Mint, 628,800 more than the year before. On the other hand, only 22,725,600 halfpennies were struck as against 57 million in 1945.

The 12-sided nickel-brass three-pennybits also declined in numbers, only 4,873,600 of them being struck, compared with 29,689,600 in 1946. Silver three-

pennybits were still struck, 371,600 of them, but they were sent overseas.

The greater number of coins for the year was due to the increase in silver. 135,058,997 half-crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences, threepennybits, and Maundy coins were struck in 1946, whereas in 1945 the number was 116,843,585.

The striking of silver coins ceased last October when the production of the new cupro-nickel half-crowns, florins, shillings, and sixpences began. Dated 1947, these coins were first issued to the public last January.

Bridge as a Token of Friendship

SYMBOLICAL of the friendship between Britain and Greece was the recent opening by King Paul of a new Bailey bridge built by British soldiers over the Corinth canal. The former bridge was destroyed by the Germans. The opening of the new bridge, which was enthusiastically cheered by a large crowd, was King Paul's first public function since he came to the throne.

The Corinth canal, which joins the Gulf of Corinth to the Saronic gulf and thus makes Morea an island, is a narrow cutting nearly four miles long through solid rock. The actual canal is 70 feet wide. The new bridge spanning it is 170 feet high and 100 yards long.

Nero was the first to try cutting a canal here, in A.D. 67, but his project was abandoned and it was not until 1893 that a canal across the Isthmus was eventually opened.

DEEP LEARNING

CLASSES for mining students have been started at Gresford Colliery, Wrexham, hundreds of feet below ground. They will be held for training entrants to the mining industry in North Wales. The Denbighshire Technical College Mining Advisory Committee will supervise the work and have chosen inspectors to be in charge of this underground training school, which is probably the deepest seat of learning in the country.

SELF-HELP IN THE GOLD COAST

BECAUSE they are unable to afford school fees, books, and stationery, the inhabitants of Bansa in the Gwira State of the Gold Coast have been unable to send their children to school. To overcome this difficulty they have recently organised three large farms which will be maintained by communal labour. It is proposed that the profits from this new venture will enable the families to pay the children's school fees and provide the necessary books.

Children's Theatre in China

FOR the first time Chinese children in Shanghai have a theatre of their own. The China Welfare Fund raised money for child welfare projects in Shanghai, and help was also given by British schoolchildren through the British United Aid to China Fund.

Where it is possible, children in schools and groups will take part in the plays presented. The first play, *The Watch*, translated and adapted for the Children's Theatre, was presented recently and the four performances attracted large audiences of interested children. The proceeds will pay the expenses of other performances in schools in poor neighbourhoods of Shanghai.

The Children's Theatre will bring healthful and enjoyable entertainment to Shanghai children.



Silent Wings

A new type of sailplane with tandem seats which can be used as a trainer has been made by Short Bros, of Rochester, usually associated with huge flying-boats. Launched by aerial towing or winch, it is here seen about to take off under the direction of a signaller known as a "bats."

A Flying "Stooge"

THE Fairey Aviation Company has developed a new rocket weapon which, we shall hope, will never be required. It is a pilotless, rocket-propelled missile whose flight can be controlled from the ground by radio.

It has already been nicknamed "Stooge," and it looks something like a small monoplane. It has a cylindrical body nearly seven-and-a-half feet long and a little over a foot in diameter, and square-tipped wings whose span is six feet ten inches. It weighs 738 pounds and is sent off from rails on a ten-foot ramp which can be tilted up to 45 degrees. It can fly at far more than 500 m.p.h. and when it is in the air it is directed this way and that by an operator on the ground who moves a lever on a control box.

SAFER ICE CREAM

NEW regulations to protect people against the risk of infection from eating ice cream have been made by the Ministry of Health, the most important of them coming into force on May 1.

They prescribe a minimum temperature for the heating of ice cream ingredients after they have been mixed. They also give instructions about the storage of ice cream before it is sold, about protecting it from dust and dirt, and about the cleaning of all apparatus and utensils.

Undaunted Research

THE devoted work for Science which a naval officer, Commander K. St B. Collins, R.N., carried on at constant peril to his life during the war, has been recognised by the award to him of the Gill Memorial, 1947, by the Royal Geographical Society.

In command of a small ship without any big guns Commander Collins undertook surveys to find the depth of the sea at different points between Scotland and Iceland and in Denmark Strait, Greenland. Commander Collins's little ship was obliged to remain in one place for a considerable period and he was thus continually exposed to attacks by enemy submarines and aircraft. Undeterred, he went on patiently gathering information which has added to our knowledge of the seas.

A PIED PIPER WANTED

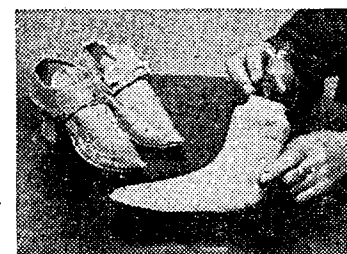
EVEN the cats in the Mallee district of Victoria, Australia, are bewildered by the millions of mice which are causing serious damage there.

Hungry mice have invaded homes, stores, and farm buildings, and are eating everything that appears remotely edible. Thousands are killed by motorists every day in the streets of Mallee towns. Storekeepers have cancelled essential orders for bran, pollard, and other stock foods. One storekeeper is said to have trapped 886 mice in two nights.

Round the Museums

A SHOE-WARMER

VISITORS to the Herts County Museum at St Albans often mistake this for a boot-tree; but it is actually a device for warm-



ing shoes, and it was used about 1840. Made of stoneware, it was filled with hot water and then placed in the shoes before the wearer went out. The shoes in the picture are made of Moire silk and have coloured soles of kid leather.

A Plan For Southampton

OUR greatest passenger port, Southampton, is to be made more up to date by a scheme of reconstruction now being put into effect.

During the war the docks suffered considerably, and the many damaged buildings are being pulled down and their sites being prepared for new ones, a scheme that will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Among the new buildings will be a comfortable passenger terminal which will replace the draughty passenger sheds of Ocean Dock. This building will have a waiting hall for

Our Karen Friends

A FEW months ago the C.N. recorded how four Karens, representing a people long friendly to Britain, had come to London to plead that their tribes should not be placed under the control of the new independent government of Burma. Since then the Karens, who refused to take part in the recent Burmese elections, have sent a deputation to plead their cause again before the Frontier Areas Commission at Maymyo in Burma.

The Karens number about 1,500,000, many of them living in wild, mountainous regions. They are different in speech, race, and religion from the Burmese, with whom, unhappily, they do not get along very well. The Karens want a State of their own.

During the war they were staunch friends to our soldiers in Burma, often risking their lives to help them. Most of the Karens are Christians and they have the reputation of having been converted to Christianity in greater numbers than any other native race in the British Empire.

POSTAGE 3d

THE Post Office reports that an average of 50,000 letters every week are sent from Britain to countries in Europe bearing 2½d stamps instead of 3d stamps—the correct rate. The extra charge has to be paid by the person receiving the letter.

A Belgian firm has complained that it has to pay an average of five francs 50 centimes every day in this way; and a Frenchman has written: "I can afford to pay the surcharge, but the thoughtlessness of my friends is hard to bear."



Gallant Horses

For the first time the Dickin Medal, the Animal's V.C., has been awarded to horses for their services during the blitz in London. They are Olga, Regal, and Upstart, all belonging to the Metropolitan Police.

May 3, 1947

The Children



On the Green

Two small caddies look on as a competitor in the Boys' Golf Championship at North Berwick plays a shot.

WHERE LESSON-TIME IS PLAYTIME

THE fascinating geography lessons given at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, are described in the Institute's Annual Report. There, last year, 90 per cent of the organised parties of visitors were school-boys and girls.

Surrounded by pictures and exhibits illustrating the lands they were studying, more than 500,000 boys and girls, from schools many miles round London, were brought into personal touch with different countries in the British Commonwealth by the Institute's lecturers.

Fortunate indeed are the boys and girls who can spend an afternoon in these magic classrooms. For example, in the Indian Section, or Court, as it is called, these wonder-seekers stand amid dissolving scenes of life and work in India. These pictures are in special cabinets in which one picture dissolves into another, so that a scene in an Indian cotton field gradually melts into one of a bazaar where the bales of cotton cloth of many designs and colours are offered for sale.

These dissolving pictures herald further developments in the Institute's half-mile of exhibition galleries.

The Canadian Government is considering the use of the whole of its court for a scenic display, with dioramas, models, and photographs telling the whole enthralling story of the Dominion from the days of the first French settlers. They would show the

brave and—as in those days they sometimes were—terrifying Red Indians, the great herds of bison that used to wander over the vast desolate prairie, the forest moose, the pioneers of the Hudson's Bay Company; then the pictures would lead on to Canada today with her hydro-electric developments, her motor manufacturing, and other industries that have become so prosperous this century.

Again, in the West African Court there is to be a series of photographs, specimens, and models showing how four typical meals are prepared for a West African family.

As well as lectures there is the Institute's cinema, where films depicting life in the Dominions and Colonies are shown free at 3 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays inclusive and at 2.30 and 3.30 on Saturdays.

The Imperial Institute is far from being solely an exhibition. Last year its Central Film Library circulated 86,289 films, and its Empire Lantern Slides and Film Strip Library circulated 1254 sets of lantern slides to schools, village halls, youth organisations, and so on.

When we consider, too, the research work carried out by the Institute's scientists to help the trade and industry of the Commonwealth, we come to realise how efficiently the Imperial Institute is welding together the peoples of the Empire—and doing it all, not in opposition to, but in harmony with the other peoples of the world.

Burma's Blind Girls

A LOVELY story of service to blind girls in Burma begins a new chapter with the re-opening at Kemmendine of the school where many of them are taught useful occupations.

When the Japanese entered Burma many of the girls at Kemmendine managed to get home, while others were taken to a mountain village in Upper Burma. There the teachers in charge of them set a noble example of self-sacrifice by selling their possessions to feed the girls.

Now these blind girls are coming back to the school again, and their bright, laughing faces in the weaving school attract

many visitors. British soldiers used to crowd round the hand looms to watch the deft fingers of the girls as they wielded the shuttle.

Blindness is one of the great afflictions in Burma which preventive treatment is gradually decreasing. But many of the small children go blind through dirt and neglect, and this simple blind school under the care of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel is one way of meeting their needs. The girls return to their villages as expert weavers and can earn their living and are much respected for their craftsmanship and character.

Wealth in Seaweed

WINTER'S Atlantic storms have blown up vast amounts of seaweed on the shores of Prince Edward Island, on Canada's eastern coast. Before the war such an accumulation was allowed to rot in the sun, or to await the next high tide to be swept out to sea.

The war, however, taught the islanders to investigate the array of seaweed plants on their shores, and in particular to look out for Irish moss, a sticky, smelly weed which looks like parsley and clings to the underwater rocks by a little suction cup called a "holdfast." Island fishermen regarded the moss as a nuisance. It fouled their nets and got tangled in their motors. But housewives found some use for it, and their homely mysteries revealed the wealth of the weed. Boiled in milk, it set hard like gelatine and made an excellent base for jellies.

Searching for a gelatine substance, usually imported, Canadian scientists tested samples of the Prince Edward Island seaweed. It was proved to contain a high percentage of "gelose"—a gluey substance which is capable of combining different materials without destroying their value. One of Canada's popular foods, chocolate milk, needs a supply of gelatine for solidity—it now comes from the seaweed.

Millions of Tons Needed

This new wealth for Prince Edward Island also makes cod-liver oil more palatable and keeps it from breaking up into oily solids and watery liquid. It makes ice-cream smoother and is used for preserving cheese and canned meats. It goes into paints and hair oils, too. Industry needs millions of tons of it.

Fishermen now go out to fish for seaweed, dragging their rakes along the underwater rocks. After the winter storms children are busy on the beaches raking in the valuable weed and bagging it, or helping to fork it into the island carts. Even on some of the country roads the weed is spread out to dry, for higher prices are paid for weed which has thoroughly bleached in the sun, provided that no fresh water is used to wash away its gelose properties.

Three Days Young



The first Impala antelope to be born in this country caused quite a stir at the London Zoo recently. Here it is seen, when three days old, with its mother.

The Editor's Table

CALL OF MAY

MAY, England's traditional month of flowers, sunshine and the open-air, is here—the month of which Thomas Hardy sang in his verse

*This is the weather the cuckoo likes,
And so do I;
When showers betumble the chestnut spikes,
And nestlings fly.*

And although we may not get all the wonders that Thomas Hardy dreamed of for his ideal month, there will surely be enough wonder in the English countryside for us to greet May as the forerunner of high summer.

THIS will be a summer of high importance for everyone who cares for his country. From the mines we must get an output of coal that will banish all possibilities of a return of last winter's calamities. Foresight now means safety in the days to come, for it is the efforts in summer which make it possible to live in the winter.

May this year will be a month of hard work for the farmers of Britain. The wealth of the land is still in the forefront of our national assets, too often despised in the past and neglected by those who believed all our food might come in ships, but now recognised at its true worth.

AN army of new workers on the land is wanted this summer. Not an ounce of what our land will yield must be wasted. Our granaries and barns are the arsenals of a battle whose outcome is our very future well-being. We have to show by our resolution and labour that "There are no hearts like English hearts, Such hearts of oak as they be." Much depends on the outcome of the summer months now beginning.

But May also heralds the time for open-air enjoyment. The long days are here again—great days for the walker on the hills and in the valleys, and for the explorers of the byways and the remote villages and small towns of our land.

No one can understand the character and temper of his country and his countrymen unless he travels its roads and its lanes and its fields; an island like ours shows itself only to those ready to spare the time and then "to stand and stare."

MAY, traditional month of fun and gaiety, is calling to British youth. This is now the month and the moment to hoist the flag of youth, hard work, and laughter at the mast head. Let us show the world that the British spirit never bows to the blows of misfortune but lives on to greet the shining sun with a cheer.

JUST AN IDEA

As Socrates wrote, He is richest who is content with least.

The Strength of a Nation

THE great wastage of men teachers feared during the war through death and disablement did not, happily, take place.

So said Mr George Tomlinson, Minister of Education, in explaining why the Emergency Training Scheme, so far as it affects the training of men teachers, is soon to close down.

The small losses among men teachers is good news; but Mr Tomlinson went on to say that the losses from all causes during the war, including the reduced volume of training, were more than counterbalanced by the fall in child population during the war years.

That is a sad statement, for the strength of a nation is reflected in the size of its school population. So it was on a happier note that Mr Tomlinson was able to appeal for more women volunteers for the Emergency Training Scheme. "There is a tremendous job to be done," he said. "The birthrate is going up and we are nearly at the point when this bulge in the population will be passing through the infants' schools, and we must have the teachers to look after them."

Double Offence

A LONDON council has stated that after a fine week-end the litter in a certain popular park was "as bad as before the war."

In those pre-war days the CN denounced Litter Louts, in season and out of season, for their bad manners. Now, however, the offence is more than the mere spoiling of public amenities. Waste paper and cartons, empty bottles and tins, should be saved as salvage; nor should the authorities be called upon to employ precious manpower in clearing up the mess when there is so much other work waiting to be done.

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If sprinters ever
win two races
running

You can usually recognise a musician by his appearance. He has an air about him.

SOME people cannot bear stew. And hate to get in one.

THE small shopkeeper need not fear the big stores. Provided he has a counter attraction.

WE want to encourage tourists to come to this country. And feed them so that they will stop and look round.

WE should all eat the right sort of food. But some have to take what is left.

A TIDIER LONDON

LONDON so lacks that harmony of buildings which satisfies the eye, and therefore the mind, that we welcome the Government's decision to preserve the terraces round Regent's Park designed by John Nash nearly 150 years ago.

Nash was not, perhaps, one of Britain's greatest architects—indeed, he was accused of finding “us all brick” and leaving “us all plaster”—but he did realise that a sense of repose comes from an orderly lay-out of groups of buildings.

Whatever its architectural style, a street should look right—not the higgledy-piggledy sequence of buildings so characteristic of very many recently-built British streets.

Let us hope that when the New London rises from her ruins planners will remember the orderliness and dignity so often achieved by John Nash.

The World's Young Christians

It is indeed inspiring that the first large-scale Christian international gathering since the war should be one representing those young people throughout the world who have dedicated themselves to Jesus Christ. This is the World Conference of Christian Youth which is to be held at Oslo from July 22 to 31 this year.

In Norway's capital about 1350 delegates from many countries, all under 30, will join in worship, and in study groups will seek guidance on the many dire problems facing Civilisation.

Christians everywhere are certain that there is only one way out of the world's present difficulties. This conference is a great act of Faith; for its delegates, and those praying for them and helping them, believe that God may use it as one of His instruments for the healing of the world.

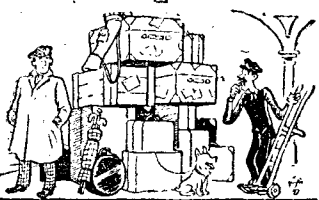
Editor's Table

IT is always profitable to grow the homely potato. It has an eye to business.

A FARMER says he only has one sack left. Each of his employees is afraid of getting it.

A MAN says that when he is on a bus he feels on top of the world. Especially at the peak hour.

CARPETS today fetch too high prices. They should be put down.



A VISITOR to London had 140 pieces of luggage. Evidently someone who carried weight.

THINGS SAID

OUR problems will be overcome and we shall emerge stronger than ever before. I have no fear for the future of our country.

Lord McGowan, head of Imperial Chemical Industries

DISCIPLINE can solve nothing, and authority is but a blind machine, unless they are both quickened by civic sense and patriotism.

The French President

IF, by speaking to the British people as man to man, I make possible a mutual understanding of our mutual problems and a greater enthusiasm for the United Nations, I shall not have come here in vain.

Henry Wallace

SURPLUS food could be stored away in the natural refrigerator of the Polar Ice-cap as an insurance against lean years.

Admiral Byrd

ONE good thing to be said for the American system of education is that it keeps young people out of the factories and in a school atmosphere until they are 18 or 19.

Revd Bryan Green

THERE is something greater than any Government, and that is this great country itself and its position in the world.

The Prime Minister

Burning Our Wealth

SINCE the end of the war British people have been consuming a third as much tobacco again as before the war. In revealing this, our Chancellor said in his recent Budget speech: “It is hardly to be believed, but the total of our exports to the United States at this time barely exceeds in value our own consumption of American tobacco.”

Yet many smokers are dismayed at the steep increase in the price of tobacco as a result of the new taxes. It is probable, however, that those who complain are a minority of those who actually smoke. An inquiry carried out by the Mass Observation movement before the war seemed to indicate that the majority of those who smoke do so because they think it is a sociable habit. They do not like to say “no” when offered a cigarette. Only a minority of those questioned said they smoked as much when they were alone. These, it was presumed, were the real tobacco addicts, unable to give up the habit.

Our young people now growing up should think twice before beginning to drift into the smoking habit. They can spend their money in more profitable ways; they might even try the saving habit.

In the Bluebell Wood

THE sunflower and the peony, the poppy bright and gay, Have no alluring charms for me: I'd fling them all away, Exotic blooms may fill the vase, or grace the high-born maid; But sweeter far to me than all are bluebells in the shade.

Eliza Cook

International Football

By the C N Sportsman

THOUGH the chief football match next Saturday will be that between England and France at Highbury, there are two other matches on that day which will arouse much interest among schoolboys and members of youth clubs.

This year the Schools' Football Associations of England, Scotland, and Wales have been able to revive international matches, and Wales receives England at Swansea. England won the last game between the two countries, in 1939, bringing her total of victories to 28, but, on their own soil, the Welsh schoolboys hope to win, and so obtain their fourth success in 36 matches.

Another international event takes place at Blackpool, where the National Association of Boys' Clubs and the News Chronicle have arranged a match between England and Scotland. After the match the players will be given caps, England having white caps bearing the N A B C badge with the keystone design, and the Scottish boys will have blue caps with a badge bearing the initials of the Scottish Association of Boys' Clubs and the cross of St Andrew.

Well Guarded



A young visitor to the Pyrenean Mountain Dog Club Championship Show in London with two of the entrants.

Remembering the Crystal Palace

PENGE has compiled a record of the Crystal Palace to ensure that it will not be completely forgotten.

In Penge public library there is a small museum devoted to the Palace and it is from this that the compilers are getting most of their material. The museum contains Palace relics, including fragments of molten glass from the fire which destroyed the building in 1936, crystal ornaments from the bandstands, and musical scores of the many festivals held there. But it is the literature that is proving most valuable for the record. They include books and leaflets about the Palace published in 1851, and many newspaper cuttings which appeared before that date. Another invaluable item is a film of the felling of the 282-foot-high North Tower which has never been shown in public.

Local residents have also been helpful, one man giving two medallions struck to commemorate the opening of Crystal Palace by Queen Victoria in 1854.

THIS MERRY MONTH

Let Us Go A-Maying

ONCE again May has arrived, clad in all its green glory; and in many parts of the country gaily-dressed children have been dancing round the maypole and tripping lightly in other time-honoured ways handed down from generation to generation in Merrie England.

Nobody knows when these May Day celebrations originated, but there was a Roman festival of Floralia which began on April 28, and from this festival, held in honour of the goddess of Spring, is derived our Queen of the May.

In early times people went out into the woods on the eve of May Day, and brought back flowers and greenery the next morning, singing:

*I been a-rambling all this night
And sometime of this day,
And now returning back again
I brought you a garland gay.*

Plum For the Glum

These people—known as May-birchers in some places—used to leave outside people's doors flowers thought suitable to the character of the person within. Thus, pear blossom signified a fair person, plum a glum man, and cherry a merry one. The red willow was much sought after as May decoration, being considered a lucky charm, while the cuckoo flower was thought unlucky, and for this reason was never included in May garlands.

The original Maypole was a living tree round which our pagan forefathers danced, clapping hands in honour of the Tree Spirit which had once more brought them the blessing of Spring. Later, the Maypole became a gaily-decorated pole, and in most large towns a permanent Maypole was set up. The one at Drury Lane was eventually bought by Sir Isaac Newton, and used to support the great telescope which had been presented to the Royal Society by a French astronomer.

The Puritans heartily disliked May Day celebrations, and one of them wrote:

“They have twenty or forty yoke of oxen, every ox having a sweet nose-gay of flowers placed on the tip of his horns; and these oxen draw home this Maypole (this stinking idol rather) which is covered all over with flowers and herbs, bound round

with strings from the top to the bottom, and sometimes painted with variable colours, with two or three hundred men, women, and children following it with great devotion. And thus being reared up with handkerchiefs and flags streaming on the top, they straw the ground about, bind green boughs about it, set up Summer-halls, bowers and arbours hard by it; and then they fall to banquet and feast, to leap and dance about it, as the heathen people did at the dedication of their idols, whereof this is a perfect pattern, or rather the thing itself.”

On May Day 1516, Henry VIII and Queen Katharine went out a-maying on to Shooters Hill, where 200 men in green, led by one representing Robin Hood, gave an archery exhibition. They used special whistling arrows, “... the noise of which was strange and loud which greatly delighted the King, Queen, and their company.”

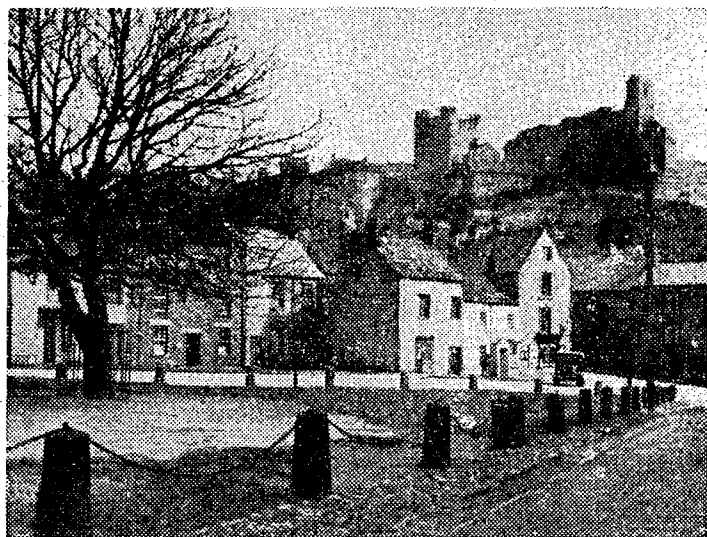
The powers of evil were abroad on May Day also, for witches held one of their dreaded quarterly meetings on that day. Fairies were about too, and woe betide anyone who sat under a hawthorn on the First of May!

A New Stamp

STAMP collectors will be anxious to obtain a specimen of a special postage stamp which has been issued in the United States to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Joseph Pulitzer, a famous American journalist and newspaper proprietor.

Pulitzer, who was born at Budapest on April 10, 1847, went to America in 1864, and served in the American Civil War. He founded and endowed a school of journalism at Columbia University, and established the Pulitzer prizes for outstanding work in literature and journalism. He died in 1911.

The new stamp bears Pulitzer's portrait, and the words: “Our Republic and its Press will rise or fall together.”



THIS ENGLAND

Richmond Castle, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, seen from Bargate Green

RAIN TO ORDER

Sprinkling Dry-Ice
on the Clouds

WHAT was lately done in Australia to bring down rain has now been made known by the careful report of the scientific rain-makers.

It had been proved in Europe already that a cloud of water vapour will not dissolve into rain unless within it are ice crystals; so what the Australian rain-makers did in their experiment was to substitute for them something a great deal colder, namely, what is known as dry-ice. This is the powdered solid into which the gas carbon dioxide is converted at temperatures more than 30 degrees colder than ice. It was dropped from an aeroplane flying at 18,000 feet into clouds in quantities of from 100 lbs to 150 lbs.

The first 100 lbs was dropped, just before two o'clock in the afternoon, the second load of 150 lbs at three, and the third shortly after. Twenty minutes after the first bombardment rain began to fall from the base of the cloud at 11,000 feet, and when all the dry ice had been dropped, rain was falling heavily over 20 square miles of country in an isolated rainstorm.

This is proof that rain can be made to fall by artificial means, though it is rather an expensive and difficult way at present.

Typing Made Easier

A new kind of typewriter, claimed by its manufacturers to be "errorless," is now being sold in the United States.

Electrically operated, it is called "The Visible Line" typewriter, and is used in almost the same way as a normal machine. It has a standard keyboard.

A complete line at a time is set up by the operator, this line being visible just above the keyboard. If any mistakes have been made they can be corrected by the simple pressing of a button and the replacing of incorrect letters.

Finally, by the tapping of a second button, the whole line is impressed on the paper.

CITY ARABS

Thomas Guthrie's
Good Work Goes On

"It is better to pay for the education of the boy than for the punishment of the man," was one of the wise remarks made by Dr Thomas Guthrie, a famous Scottish preacher, whose "Ragged Schools," now known as Dr Guthrie's Approved Schools, celebrated their centenary recently. On that occasion a grandson of Dr Guthrie laid a wreath on the statue of their founder, while two great-grandchildren looked on.

It was while walking in the King's Park, Edinburgh, during the Hungry Forties of last century that Dr Guthrie met two tattered little waifs who were offering cups of water from St Anthony's well, on the slopes of Arthur's Seat, to passers-by at a halfpenny a cup. Touched by the sight, the good man had a sudden inspiration. "Would you go to school," he asked them, "if, besides your learning, you were to get breakfast, dinner, and supper there?"

The answer was never in doubt, and the original ragged school for boys was opened with seven pupils in Ramsay Lane, near Edinburgh Castle. A few months later girls were included, and by the end of the year 1847 the number of pupils had grown to 446.

Owing to the enthusiasm and eloquence of the founder money poured into Dr Guthrie for his "city arabs," as he called them; and two fine schools were opened later in the century in Edinburgh, one for boys and one for girls. All the expenses were paid by voluntary contributions.

Today Dr Guthrie's schools are as up to date as any in the country and the teaching is specially planned to meet the needs of the child whose poverty or delinquency has made him a backward scholar.

The principles of Dr Guthrie, who was determined to "bind the Bible to his ragged schools," still hold good. Christian teaching still has a prominent place alongside training for occupations and recreation.

WHO WAS SHE? Picture-Story of a Great Reformer



WHEN CRICKET WAS A NATIONAL DANGER

It is difficult for us in this sport-loving land, even in these days when the Government has had to lay a restricting hand on some of our pastimes, to realise that in imperial affairs it has on occasion been necessary to repress a sport so that people might live; and cricket, of all games!

Time was when cricket, reaching Samoa from England, became

such an absorbing passion with the islanders that the Germans, then the controlling Power, banned the game, making the playing of cricket a criminal offence.

Something of Prussian jack-boot methods might be detected in this sweeping measure, but even the games-playing British once had unwillingly to adopt firm measures in the Tongan or

Friendly Islands, in the South Pacific.

The natives, whose amiable qualities caused Captain Cook to give their home its pleasant happy name, were always athletes, and when the English introduced cricket late last century, the game spread like an epidemic. The whole male population played it from sunrise to sunset. Where bats and balls were available, bats and balls were used; where they were not, a branch from a coconut palm served as a palm bat, and a hard unripe orange as a ball.

Village played against village, with every able-bodied man going in in turn to bat. But the matches were not eleven a side; there were as many as seventy or eighty in one team. Such games took days, even weeks, to decide, with the result that work stood still; plantations were neglected, and the coconuts, main source of the islanders' wealth, were left to rot on the ground. In addition, after exceptionally exciting contests, with partisan feeling running amok among both teams and onlookers, bats and stumps became weapons of brief, miniature civil war.

So the law had to act. Cricket, in its unlimited form, was declared a national danger, and matches were forbidden except on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thereupon the natives returned to at least consistent part-time toil—which was sufficient in that friendly climate.

Humble Victims of the Floods

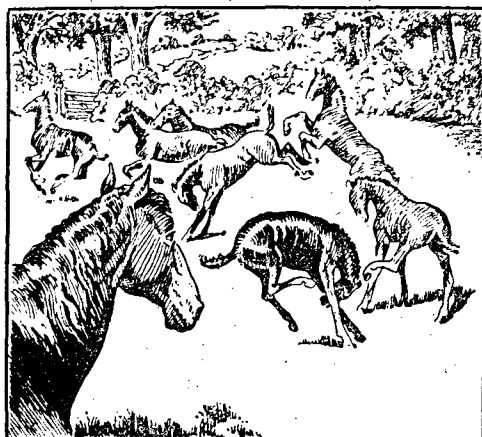
THOUGH much has been said about our loss in crops and livestock this winter, we have heard little of the death-roll among those priceless friends of agriculture, the earthworms. A horticulturist who is also an expert field naturalist, tells the CN that in his own area, when the floods at last dispersed, he saw drowned earthworms lying in numbers beyond counting. Frost these virile creatures can withstand by deep burrowing; prolonged floods, despite their cunning plugging of the entrances to their burrows, are fatal to most of the species.

Worms, the world's first ploughmen, making the mould fine, and mixing it with vegetation, are unrivalled fertilisers of the earth, draining and enriching the soil unceasingly. Darwin calculated that they bring to the surface from 15 to 20 tons of soil per acre each year. He, however, assumed that only some 26,000 worms occupy an acre;

more recent observations at Rothamsted, the famous Hertfordshire agricultural station, show, however, that, whereas poorly-manured land has half-a-million worms to the acre, richly-fertilised soil has three times that number, working down even to a depth of from seven to eight feet. The total labour performed for agriculture by such multitudes must be immense, for the average amount of soil and vegetation cast up yearly by each worm amounts to 20 ounces.

So persistent is the work of these lowly creatures that the soil they bring up covers stones, and even boulders, lying on the surface, gradually converting stony wastes into pasture land. In New Zealand some years ago geologists found, buried under worm casts a foot deep, a veritable arsenal of weapons and implements that had been used by the Stone Age predecessors of the Maoris.

BLACK BEAUTY—Picture Version of Anna Sewell's Autobiography of a Horse



When I was young I lived in a meadow with my mother and six young carthorse colts. We youngsters had great fun, galloping round and round the field as hard as we could go. Sometimes we were rather rough, for the others would frequently bite and kick as well as gallop. One day my mother whinnied to me to come to her.



"These are good colts," she said, "but they have not learned good manners. You are well bred. I hope you will grow up gentle and never learn bad ways. Do your work with a good will, and never bite or kick even in play." I have never forgotten my mother's advice.



When I was full-grown I was taught to wear a saddle and bridle. I hated that bit in my mouth at first, but my master was a kind man and his pats and gentle ways got me used to it. I felt queer, too, when he first got on my back, but I was proud to carry him and most anxious to please my mother, who was watching my schooling.



One day a man came to take me to Squire Gordon, who had bought me. "Do your best and keep up our good name," my mother said. "Goodbye, Darkie, be a good horse," smiled my master. I could not say "Goodbye" so I put my nose into his hand.

What will the young horse's new home be like? See next week's instalment

A Dutchman's Fight For the Fens

IN sending us pumps to help in our battle with the flooded Fens, and huge floating cranes for the repair of the Trent bank near Gainsborough, the Dutch are repaying a kindness and also enabling history to repeat itself.

Recently it was Britain who, having been compelled during the war to blast the sea ramparts on the island of Walcheren and so let in the sea, furnished plant and engineers to close the gaps and so restore the island for future cultivation. Now it is Holland's turn, so over come the Dutch with their apparatus.

With the lowest-lying country in the world, the Dutch possess their land as the reward for constantly banking-out the sea and banking-in their rivers and canals. It is an ancient saying of the Dutch, "God made the sea; we made the shore." Many are the times they have given England the benefit of their skill—in reclaiming and embanking Canvey Island, in the Thames estuary; in enclosing Wapping Marsh; in making a new haven for old-time Plymouth; in repairing river invasions; and in pumping water, with Dutch engines, for old London to drink. And then there was the outstanding work of Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, the Dutch engineer who became an English knight, busy draining Fenland.

The Youthful Engineer

Vermuyden reached England in 1621, in his twenties, yet a veteran in water engineering, and received a grant of land for repairing a burst bank of the Thames that had flooded Dagenham and its neighbourhood. Next, Charles the First employed him to drain Windsor Park, and after that a great flooded area in Yorkshire, called Hatfield Chase, which was then a waste of waters but is now rich agricultural land. He had his own expert Dutch workmen, against whom the Yorkshire peasants rose in fury, destroying their work and their chapels, and ill-

using, and even killing, the men. But Vermuyden completed his task, and in 1629 was given 25,000 acres of land on payment of a sum down, with a yearly rent of which a red rose was a part.

Lawsuits, the wreckage of his work, unjust imprisonment, and every form of difficulty hampered his later career, which now lay mainly in the fens. Here men had toiled from Roman times onwards, seeking to rid this great area of the counties of Lincoln, Huntingdon, Cambridge, and Norfolk of the water overlying half-a-million acres of land forming the drainage-basins of four important rivers.

A Colossal Undertaking

Vermuyden first acted there under the Earl of Bedford, and later under Charles the First, whose interest ended with the Civil War. Cromwell, at first his opponent, reinforced him with 1000 Scots prisoners taken at Dunbar, and 500 Dutchmen captured by Admiral Blake. While Vermuyden was cutting canals, straightening and deepening rivers, and erecting sluices and embankments on a colossal scale, he was constantly faced by the destructive violence of the Fenmen, who preferred their bogs and rivers, with fish and wildfowl, to the promise of land for crops and cattle.

Not all his plans have been approved. They had faults—but Vermuyden lived to see corn growing and livestock grazing where disease and desolation had for centuries prevailed. Much of his work can still be traced, and, seeing it, and realising the pioneer part he played in the Fens, we remember with sorrow that he died in obscurity and almost penniless, when nearly 90.

STRANGE STORY OF PUDDLE MUDDLE

THREE excellent new road-safety films will be on loan from the Petroleum Films Bureau, 46 St James's Place, SW 1, from May 19. They are called *The Puddle Muddle Riddle*; *Playing In The Road*; and *The Ballad of the Battered Bicycle*. They may be borrowed, free of charge, by schools, Educational Authorities, road-safety committees, or any organisation that can use them in the cause of road-safety.

The first is a fantasy about a place called Puddle Muddle Town where there are no road rules. People walk and drive just anyhow and anywhere they like, with the result that a permanent traffic block develops. We see the townsfolk holding meetings to decide how to unravel this seemingly hopeless tangle, and the various experiments they make until at last they evolve traffic rules as the civilised world knows them today.

Playing In The Road gives us more queer scenes. These show what happens when grown-ups suddenly take it into their heads to play golf, darts, and other games in the road among the

cars, bikes, and buses. Their children object strongly to such absurd behaviour.

The *Ballad of the Battered Bicycle* tells the mournful story of how a beautiful new bicycle was smashed up in a few days by its boy owner, who did practically everything that a bicycle rider should not.

These are sound films, 35 mm and 16 mm. The first two take 12 minutes to run and the third, ten minutes.

Sailing Down the River

Now that the warmer days are with us again many people will be making their way to the rivers, but this year on the Thames, at least, there will not be so many blistered hands or aching backs.

For those who like to explore the beauties of the Thames without too much exertion, Richmond watermen have formed London's first "Drive Yourself" motor-boat hire-service. Anyone may hire one of the 14 new craft. The only restriction is that imposed by the Port of London Authority of a speed limit of five knots

THE CELESTIAL HERDSMAN

By the C.N. Astronomer

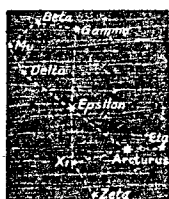
THE grand constellation of Boötes now occupies a very large area of the sky to the south of overhead in the evening.

It is a star group dating from at least 8000 years ago, and appears to have been devoted to symbolising the Chaldean Herdsmen of old with their herds of oxen. This accounts for the singular name Boötes—pronounced Bo-6-tees—which is derived from the Greek *bous*, an ox, through the Latin *bovis*.

Job's Star

The constellation's great star Arcturus is mentioned in the Book of Job, and so it used to be called "Job's Star." The name Arcturus also suggests by *urus*, an ox, a bovine derivation. This golden-hued Arcturus will be readily recognised high in the south-east, with the aid of the star-map, though its description must be reserved for our next article. For the present it will help to identify the other stars of the Herdsman.

Epsilon in Boötes, also known as Pulcherrima, is the star above Arcturus towards overhead. It is one of the most beautiful when observed telescopically, for it is composed of two stars—the larger of third magnitude being



of an intense golden hue and a great sun radiating about 140 times more light than our Sun; the other, of sixth magnitude, being of a rich blue tint and radiating about 15 times more light than our Sun. They may be seen through a telescope of only three-inch aperture. These two stars form a system in which the smaller revolves round the larger; they are 142 light-years distant from us—that is, about 9 million times farther than our Sun.

Not far from overhead is Delta in Boötes, at a distance of 105 light-years; this also is composed of two stars. Still farther north is the fainter fourth magnitude star Mu in Boötes, which is composed of three stars, two appearing very close together. These are somewhat larger than our Sun and take 224 years to revolve in an orbit probably larger than that of the planet Neptune. Beta in Boötes is a solitary sun much larger than ours and radiating about 120 times more light from a distance of 142 light-years. Gamma in Boötes is much nearer, at a distance of 56 light-years, and it radiates about 15 times more light than our Sun.

On the other side of Arcturus is the most interesting third magnitude star Eta. About the same size as our Sun, it is similar in type; it has a much smaller "companion" sun revolving round it at the average distance away of 72 million miles—that is, not quite so far as the Earth is from the Sun. Apparently it is a "world-in-the-making" revolving round the central sun in 497 days, thus travelling slower than our world does. Doubtless it is much larger and probably more massive, otherwise the planetary similarity to our world, in relation to the Sun, is remarkable. G. F. M.

It's time you had a
BSA
Quick—get that one! on show today!

B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11.

QUALITY FLAVOUR

BERMALINE BREAD
is Baked
BY APPOINTED BAKERS

PURITY DIGESTIBILITY

TO THE YOUTH OF BRITAIN

Would you not hate to see a noble stag chased by horsemen and hounds until exhausted—and then slaughtered?

Help to stop this barbarity.

Write for information "League Against Cruel Sports," 58 Maddox Street, London, W.1.

Famous for drawing!

For over a century Gillott's have made the finest quality and the widest range of drawing pens in the world... the favourite of famous artists. At present supplies may be limited, but the excellence persists.

By Appointment Pen Makers to the late King George V

Gillott's Pens

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD.
VICTORIA WORKS - BIRMINGHAM

The Famous
EPIDIASCOPE PROJECTOR 79/6
NOW OFF THE SECRET LIST

ORDINARY PHOTOS, etc., FLASHED ON SCREEN TO ANY SIZE

EPIDIASCOPES are used by Army, Navy, R.A.F. and C.I.F. PHOTOGRAPHS from any size thrown on to the screen larger than life size if desired, at a very few feet distance from the screen. Merely insert drawing, snap, photograph, stamps, ordinary picture cards, or any document, and you can enlarge to colossal proportions, projecting actual colourings. A postage stamp snap is produced magically to fill a cinema screen. Why not show your family album on the screen, see the detail as if you were back on the scene once again. Not only an entertainment, but ideal for detecting alterations on documents; also a boon to philatelists in detecting quality A takes. Simply plug in to your electric light circuit.

EX-ARMY BELL TENTS £8 15 0 CARRIAGE FREE

Complete. Sectional pole, all accessories. Reconditioned. Sleeps 8. Height 9ft. 6in. Circumference 44ft. £8 15 0
GENUINE EX-RAILWAY TARPULINS—70 sq. ft., 20/-, including carriage, 2 for 39/-; 4 for 77/6. 140 sq. ft., £2 10 0; 280 sq. ft., £5; SHIPS' TARPULINS Approx. 360 sq. ft., £8, incl. carr.; Approx. 720 sq. ft., £12, incl. carr. MARQUEES—30x20ft. Height 14ft. £38 15 0 complete. Also larger sizes. EX-GOVERNMENT JACK KNIVES—Slightly soiled. Price 3/9 each post 6d.; 3 for 10/6, including post.

HEADQUARTER & GENERAL SUPPLIES, LTD.
(Dept. CN/EP/1), Excel House, Excel Court, Whitcomb St., Leicester Sq., London, W.C.2

THE BRAN TUB

FUEL FLASH

A COUNTRY BOY who had been engaged as a page at a large house was sent by the butler to answer the drawing-room bell. When he returned he was laughing heartily.

"Whatever is the matter?" asked the other servants.

"Why," said the lad, "there were 16 people in the room and not one of them knew how to put coal on the fire, so I had to do it for them."

Will the Summer Be Fine?

COUNTRY people watch for natural signs to help them in forecasting what the summer will be like.

They say that if the rooks build their nests high and the blackbirds low it will be a hot, dry summer; and if bees work very hard in the spring the summer is likely to be wet and cold. If moles make their runs on low-lying ground a drought is coming; but if kingfishers place their nest-holes high above the river the summer will be wet. It will also be wet if the ash tree develops its leaves before the oak; and dry when the oak leaves come first.

WHAT A NECK!

WHEN the elephant met the giraffe, He remarked, "How your neck makes me laugh! It is useful to be Half as tall as a tree But it must need a very long scarf."

Tongue Twister

A GLORIOUS glowing gleam gradually growing green.

BEDTIME CORNER

The New Neighbours

JOHN, Vera, and Peter were waiting to see their new neighbours, who were due to arrive that day.

"I do hope there will be some little children," said Vera hopefully.

John was more pessimistic.

"I expect they will be old and grumpy like the others," he grunted. The children eventually grew tired of waiting and went across to the pond in the park and watched the boats sailing. One boat caught John's eye.

"That's a beauty, isn't it," he said to his sister. But Vera was talking to a little girl playing with her dolls, so John walked over to the owner of the boat, a boy about his own age.

"That's a fine boat you have," John said.

The boy looked up.

"Yes, isn't it? But I want to get it in and I can't reach it."

"I think I can," said John. "If you hold my hand I can reach it with this stick."

And he leaned out and managed to pull the little boat to the edge of the pond.

"Thanks a lot," said the boy, "but I have to go now." And then, as he saw John's



Father Jacko was trying out a new fertiliser on his rare plant.



Jacko thought his common aspidistra needed a little attention also.



And Father Jacko had a great surprise next morning.

Jacko Plants the Pot

Catch Question

WHAT is the best angle of approach to a new and difficult job?

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Earth-Bound Swifts. At first Don thought it was a swallow, but, drawing closer, saw the smoke-coloured plumage, proclaiming it to be a swift.

"Must be hurt," thought Don, stooping and gently picking up the bird. It struggled, and pecked fiercely. "There's nothing wrong with it," said Farmer Gray. He tossed it into the air, and to Don's surprise the swift darted off. "Swifts have very short legs," explained the farmer, "and their feet are formed so that they are unable to walk and can hardly perch normally. If by some mishap they find themselves on the ground, they have great difficulty in leaving it again."

Who Was She?

THE woman in the picture-story on page 6 was Elizabeth Fry.

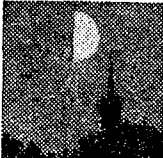
REVERSE PROCESS

THE parachutist was very apologetic for landing in a big pear tree in full blossom.

"That's all right," said the owner; "you've made a record. You are the first man to climb down that tree before going up."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn is in the south-west and Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 10 p.m. D B S T o n



Tuesday, April 29.

FIND THE TOWNS

WITH the help of the following clues, can you discover the names of five well-known towns or cities in England and Wales?

1. One of the three R's.
2. Offal—small area of water.
3. Water is obtained from them.
4. A certain weight—crosses a river.
5. A large bird—salt water.

Answers next week

Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, April 30, to Tuesday, May 6.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Cat Named Rowley. 5.10 Stories From the Ballet. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-song; Answering Questions; How's It Done?—a talk on maintaining river banks. Scottish, 5.0 Scottish Children's Magazine. 5.30 The Bell Rock—a Scottish islands talk.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Mystery at Castle Rock Zoo (Part 1); Robert Bristol (tenor); What—Do You Know About Maps? Scottish, 5.0 Helen Paton Reid (songs). 5.15 Tales of a Grandfather. Welsh, 5.30 Junior Radio Record.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The story of London Bridge.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Scottish Variety Orchestra. 5.40 International Soccer—commentary on the England v Scotland Boys' Clubs match at Blackpool.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Cow Which Wouldn't Go To Market; The Secret Garden (Part 1).

MONDAY, 5.0 The House at Pooh Corner (Part 6). 5.25 A Visit to Cowleaze Farm. Scottish, 5.25 Nature Scrapbook—The Zoo Man, the Hutman, and the Birdman answer your questions.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Full Steam Ahead. 5.40 Peter—a talk by Alastair Borthwick. Midland, 5.0 Youth in the Saddle—a visit to a Gynkhana; Jack Davis (piano); The Man in the Red Waistcoat. North, 5.0 A Cabin For Crusoe.

The Children's Newspaper, May 3, 1947

HOW TO PACK FLOWERS

FLOWERS often get damaged and lose their freshness when sent through the post. The risk can be lessened if they are packed in lawn-mowings, or even grass specially cut up for the purpose.

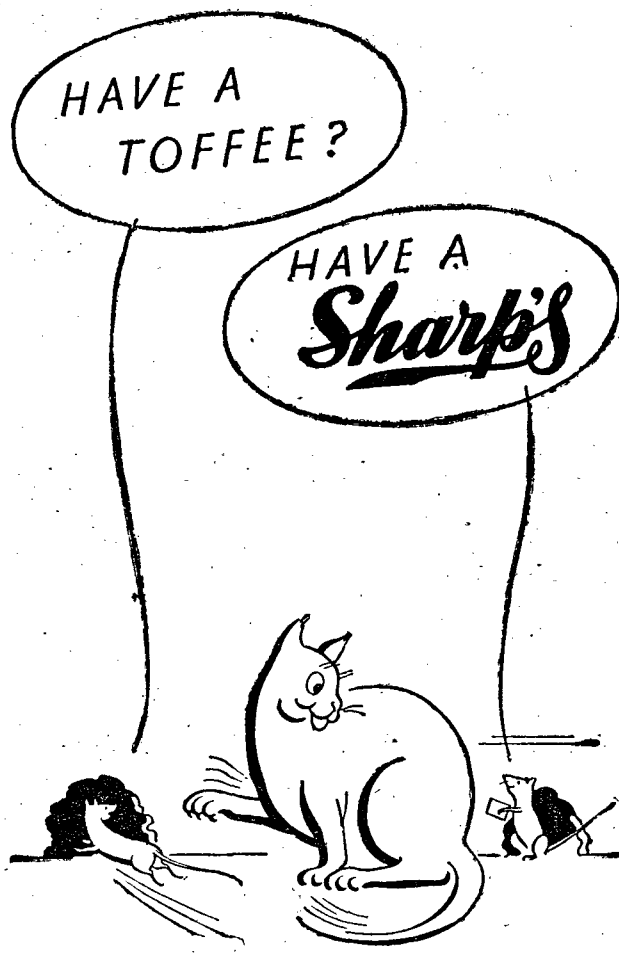
Put a good layer of grass in the bottom of the box, and when arranging the flowers add more. Finish off with a good quantity of grass at the top, so that the box is quite filled. Blossoms packed in this way will travel more safely and will be kept fresh for several days in a closed box.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Jumbled Flowers

Coltsfoot;
Hyacinth;
Marsh Marigold;
Daffodil;
Dandelion;
Violet

M	E	R	I	T	F	A	D
A	N	E	N	T	A	C	E
P	E	A	T	E	R	I	E
L	O	N	G	D	D		
D	I	M	U	A	S	S	
A	N	S	T	A	R		
U	N	D	O	B	E	E	F
N	E	E	L	U	N	G	E
T	R	Y		S	T	A	G



Sharp's SPECIALISE
IN MAKING **TOFFEE**

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD.
of Maidstone.
"THE TOFFEE SPECIALISTS"

